

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Canceled)
2. (Previously Presented) A layout system, comprising:
 - a published information storage device that stores a plurality of pieces of published information;
 - a published information selection device that selects the published information out of the published information storage device;
 - a layout device that produces a layout of the published information selected by the published information selection device, the layout device producing a layout by storing the published information in an information storage frame according to a template that defines items related to the information storage frame arranged in a predetermined layout region;
 - a template storage device that stores a plurality of different templates; and
 - a template selection device that selects a template out of the template storage device according to an average character number per page,
 - the layout device producing the layout of the published information according to the selected template selected by the template selection device,
 - the average character number per page being based on a total character number of all unpublished articles, a maximum page number to be displayed that stored in a user profile table, and a page number of a layout region to be processed.
3. (Original) The layout system according to Claim 2, the template being a page template that defines the shape, size, and arrangement of an information storage frame to be arranged in a layout region in page units.

4. (Previously Presented) The layout system according to Claim 3, the page template being related to information that indicates the amount of publishable information which can be stored in the information storage frame defined by a relevant page template.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Previously Presented) A layout system, comprising:

- a published information storage device that stores a plurality of pieces of published information;
- a published information selection device that selects the published information out of the published information storage device;
- a layout device that produces a layout of the published information selected by the published information selection device, the layout device producing a layout by storing the published information in an information storage frame according to a template that defines items related to the information storage frame to be arranged in a predetermined layout region;
- a template storage device that stores a plurality of different templates; and
- a template selection device that selects a template out of the template storage device according to an average character number per page,

the layout device producing the layout of the published information according to the selected template selected by the template selection device, and

the average character number per page being calculated according to the following equation:

$$N_{ave} = N_{sum} / (P_{max} - P_{cur}),$$

N_{sum} being a total character number of all unpublished articles,

P_{max} being a maximum page number to be displayed that is inputted by a user and stored in a user profile table,

P_{cur} being a page number of a layout region to be processed.

7. (Original) The layout system according to Claim 6, the template being a page template that defines the shape, size, and arrangement of an information storage frame to be arranged in a layout region in page units.

8. (Previously Presented) The layout system according to Claim 7, the page template being related to information that indicates a publishable number that can be stored in the information storage frame defined by a relevant page template.

9-20. (Canceled)

21. (Previously Presented) A layout method, comprising:

producing a layout of published information, the producing the layout including storing the published information in an information storage frame according to a template that defines items related to the information storage frame to be arranged in a predetermined layout region,

storing a plurality of different templates in a template storage device,

selecting the template during the storing according to an average character number per page, and producing a layout of the published information according to the selected template,

the average character number per page being based on a total character number of all unpublished articles, a maximum page number to be displayed that is stored in a user profile table, and a page number of a layout region to be processed.